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Redeemer College

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A photograph of a man and a young child walking away from the camera down a long library aisle. The man is wearing a light blue button-down shirt, khaki pants, and a dark backpack. The child is wearing a blue dress over a dark long-sleeved shirt. They are surrounded by tall bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is warm and slightly hazy, creating a sense of depth and focus on the figures in the center.

# Back to the Classroom

**Mature students perform  
an astounding juggling act**



Photo: David's Photography

# Our continuing conversations with government

BY JUSTIN D. COOPER

**We are currently busy on three fronts: degree granting for other private universities; teacher certification; and student assistance.**

## Government Relations Committee Members:

Hank Hultink  
Jack Zondag  
Bert Bakker  
Adrian Guidemond  
Ben Harsevoort  
Justin Cooper  
Wytse van Dijk  
Bill van Staalduinen  
John Vriend

It may surprise you to hear that government relations is an ongoing aspect of the institutional life of Redeemer. Although we have achieved two very large goals in receiving our degree granting status and our change in name to Redeemer University College, our conversations with government continue on a number of other topics. We are currently busy on three fronts: degree granting for other private universities; teacher certification; and student assistance. Advice from our Government Relations Committee assists us in these efforts.

With respect to degree granting for community colleges and private universities, the provincial government has now passed Bill 132, allowing for the creation of new private universities, which is based on the precedent we set! The Lord has used Redeemer as an example to convince the province to change the Roberts Policy, which had stood since 1964 and barred the way for the establishment of new degree granting institutions. The legislation will establish a Quality Assessment Board which will set standards and review applications for new institutions and programs. But we are still uncertain how this will be implemented and whether there will be implications for existing institutions like Redeemer.

A second area of ongoing work is the provincial certification of our elementary teacher education program. This objective

involves an application to the Ontario College of Teachers for initial certification of our program, and another change in our charter to be able to grant the B.Ed. Degree. The College of Teachers has put our application for initial certification on hold until it receives approval of the regulations governing teacher certification. If our application is accepted, we will begin a two-year approval process. We are also aware that the Supreme Court's decision on the Trinity Western case will have a direct bearing on the outcome of our application.

We have also been busy in the area of financial assistance. Although Redeemer does not receive direct public funding, our students do receive public funding through provincial grants and federal loans. One matter we have been examining is the fact that our students are currently not eligible for provincial scholarships. Here we have tried to press the principle of equal access for Ontario students to all forms of provincial assistance, regardless of whether they attend a publicly assisted or privately funded university.

Other issues may arise, but they all revolve around the principle of gaining equal recognition for a private Christian university, something people are just not used to dealing with! We praise God for these opportunities to seek greater justice and pray that we may be wise and winsome in making our case and giving a witness which honours Jesus Christ. |



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Briefcase & Bunny Rabbit: mature students balance many different roles when they return to school.



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Photo: Peter Loring

# Community and the Kingdom

BY TIM WOLFERT '87

**"...being part of a community involves a give and take among all its members, and Redeemer is pleased that it is able to give something back to those who give so much."**

**W**e often talk about the "Redeemer community"—that rather undefined group of friends and donors who are sympathetic to the cause of Christian higher

education, especially in Ontario. Redeemer certainly relies on that community a great deal. It has donated millions of dollars over the years to build and operate the institution. Supporters help as well by identifying prospective students, distributing material, serving on Boards and committees, and through a host of other formal and informal volunteer activities. It is also the spiritual community that upholds Redeemer in prayer.

For some, the term "Redeemer community" is just a convenient label that may be used to define the focus or scope of fundraising and recruiting activities. According to that view, the only contact the community has with the institution is a barrage of solicitation letters and newsletters, sent to anyone with a familial, geographic, denominational, or financial connection to Redeemer.

However, being part of a community involves a give and take among all its members, and Redeemer is pleased that it is able to give something back to those who give so much. The most important dividend, of course, are the students who return to live, work and serve in their respective communities, living out the Christ-centred education they received.

But there are other ways Redeemer services the community that supports it. The university college hosts and promotes a number of sporting events, choir festivals, and drama workshops for Christian elementary and secondary schools. For example, more than 50 Christian schools will be participating in the Redeemer Science Fair this April, giving students the opportunity to share their work and learn from students from across the province.

Redeemer is also home to concerts, plays and academic events that can be enjoyed by all. There are professors willing to address groups on a variety of topics that are of interest to Christians. Student praise teams lead worship services across Ontario in a variety of denominations. And Redeemer is home to library, recreation and conference services that benefit many "in the community."

Redeemer University College's Purpose is "to equip students to fulfil their calling in the Kingdom of God by providing them with a post-secondary education that is grounded in Scripture." To do that, we need to partner with a dedicated support community that upholds the institution financially and prayerfully. We also rely on the wisdom and work of a network of committed volunteers to provide leadership and to carry out tasks at a local level. Thank you for your on-going support. And please—let us know if we can return the favour. |



# Redeemer signs Articulation agreement



Photo: Stiller/Redeemer

Signing the articulation agreement in Toronto are (left) Dr. Brian C. Stiller, President of Tyndale College and Seminary and Dr. Cooper, President of Redeemer University College.

Dr. Justin D. Cooper and Dr. Brian C. Stiller, President of Tyndale College and Seminary in Toronto, have signed an articulation agreement which will make it possible for Tyndale students who have completed two years of study in selected majors to complete the final two years of their program at Redeemer. Dr. Cooper and Dr. Stiller met in a brief ceremony at Tyndale concluding almost a year of discussions.

Formalizing a relationship will bring benefits for each institution. Tyndale students have the immediate benefit of having access to a Bachelor of Arts degree while initially studying on the Tyndale campus. Redeemer will be able to access a wider segment of the broader evangelical community, particularly in the Greater Toronto Area.

Both presidents also spoke of the agreement's importance for Christian higher education in eastern Canada. Cooper noted, "The Christian community is well served by our cooperation and we provide a credible witness to the broader academic community as to the integrity of Christian scholarship." Stiller noted that, "With this great vision of shaping students within a Christian world view, we can all contribute to the building of Christ's kingdom."

The agreement, which will begin in the

academic year 2001-02, draws on Redeemer's authority under its provincial charter to conclude agreements with other institutions in offering its degrees. It is the hope of both institutions that this partnership will enable more young Christian leaders to receive a quality Christian university education in preparation for a wide variety of vocations.

Tyndale, founded in 1894, grants Bachelor of Religious Studies and Bachelor of Religious Education degrees. Formerly known as Ontario Bible College, Tyndale's programs include courses in the liberal arts, focusing on the integration of faith and learning.

This is the third formal articulation agreement into which Redeemer has entered. Since 1993, Redeemer students who wish to receive a major or honours major in Chemistry or Biochemistry may transfer to the University of Guelph to complete their degree. Guelph reserves 5 admission spaces in its program for Redeemer students who have followed a prescribed program of study for 3 years. Redeemer also has an agreement with Augustine College of Ottawa, ON. Students can receive credit for first year courses taken at Augustine when they transfer to Redeemer to complete their bachelor's degree program. |



Photo: Stiller/Redeemer

Dr. Harold Best in conversation with students and faculty

## Staley Lecture discusses Worship

Dr. Harold Best, Emeritus Dean/Professor of Music of the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, was this year's Staley Lecture speaker. Dr. Best's theme for the two day series of lectures, interviews, informal discussions and an open forum was "Authentic Worship and Creativity"

The Staley Lecture Series, supported by the Thomas F. Staley Foundation, was established in 1969 by the Staleys in memory of their parents. The Foundation believes that the message of the Christian gospel is always contemporary, relevant and meaningful to any generation and has sought to bring to North American university campuses distinguished scholars and artists who truly believe and who can clearly communicate the Christian gospel to students.

Unfortunately this was the last year of funding for this excellent series which has enriched the student body as well as faculty and staff. Redeemer is currently seeking alternatives for the program's funding. |



## News

# Redeemer Royals Fall Wrap-up 2000-2001

By FRANCES MANIAS-JACKSON '96

Redeemer's Varsity sports teams compete in the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA). The fall and winter are very busy times for our student athletes, with many sports in full swing. Contact the Athletic Office for information on team schedules or for more information. Watch the next issue of *Images* for a report on the men's hockey team and the indoor soccer teams.

**Women's Soccer:** Second year Head Coach Tom Sauder did yet another amazing job with the Royals. Competing in by far the most competitive division (Central West) in the league, the Women's record of 3 wins, 2 losses, and 4 ties, although not good enough for a spot in the Provincial Championships, was fantastic. A tough team defense was anchored by Central West Region top goaltender Anita Kralt '03 from Millgrove, ON. Congratulations to OCAA All-Stars Anita Kralt and Amanda DeVries '02 from Glen Williams, ON, and to Coach Sauder for his 2nd consecutive Central West Coach of the Year Award.

**Men's Soccer:** The Royals, coached by Dave Mantel '99, fought hard in the tough Central West Division. Despite their 0-9-1 record, this young team persevered, playing several good halves of soccer. The team will continue to rebuild in order to once again be a competitive force in the OCAA. Congratulations to Greg Bylsma '01 of Belleville, ON, and rookie Mark Sinka '04 from St. Catharines, ON, for their All-Star Recognition.

**Women's Basketball:** Coached by Nathan Siebenga '01, (Redeemer student in his second year as head coach), the women's record stands at 5 wins and 3 losses heading into the last month of competition in the OCAA. The team has had an excellent start to the season and is currently 2nd in the West Region. Veteran (and team captain) Trish Herrewynen-Brouwer '01, from Burlington, ON, is 5th in total offense with 3.6 points per game (ppg)



Nathan Siebenga



Anita Kralt hypes it up with fellow teammates

while teammates Amanda DeVries and Carlana VanDriel '03 from Goderich, ON, are tied for 7th averaging 3.0 ppg. The Royals have their eyes set on a play-off berth in 2001!

**Men's Basketball:** Coach John Byl is back with the team after a two year hiatus. Holding their ground at 3rd place, (with 4 wins and 3 losses) in the West Division, this young team is just now putting it all together. Coming off a 5th/6th place finish at last year's provincials, the team once again is focusing on the play-offs. With excellent defensive play by rookie Steve Kater '04 from Cavan, ON, and a consistent effort at the net by Beamsville, ON native Mark Benschop '04 (currently 6th in the West with 3.6 ppg), the team is primed for their best volleyball of the season. Veterans Colin De Raal '02 from Corbyville, ON, and Nathan Siebenga (4th in the West with 3.8 ppg) will no doubt motivate their teammates towards the goal!

**Men's Basketball:** In his third year with the men, coach Moses Silva is confident and enthusiastic about this young Royals team. Veterans Paul Voortman '01 from Chino, CA, (4th in the West with 19 ppg) and Charlottetown PEI's Ryan Schipper '02 are playing the best ball of their careers, and match up with the best players in the very challenging OCAA. The men are currently 0-6 and have some tough games remaining this season.

**Women's Basketball:** Moses Silva has taken on double duty with the women's team. With all but two players back this year, the team continues to improve on last season. An impressive win over Seneca earlier in the year has sparked enthusiasm for the players and fans alike. At 2 wins and 6 losses, the Royals have a tough ten game schedule remaining these next six weeks, but anticipate bettering last season's record. Second year guard Anita Kralt is 4th in the league's scoring race, averaging 16.5 ppg. Good offensive play by center Marie Stevens '02 from Palmerston, ON, and the solid defense by veterans Carrie DeGraaf '01 from Beamsville, and Diane Kapteyn '01 from Chatham, ON contributes to the competitive play of the Royals this season.



# Milk & Honey

SUMMER FESTIVAL

May 28 - June 1 or June 4 - June 8

Redeemer University College

Turning Points in History: Eastern Europe and South Africa

To register, or for more information, please call Sandi Buwalda at (905) 648-3121 X. 2131.



# Continuing to Build on the Promise

Last fall, the Redeemer University College Board of Governors approved a second stage of the successful Building on the Promise Campaign. The highlight of the first stage of the Campaign was the construction of the new residence. The \$2.4 million residence hall was built on time and within budget, and was completely paid for with the generous gifts of Redeemer's support community. The Campaign also raised close to \$2 million more for projects ranging from student aid to faculty development.

"We are so very grateful for the positive response to the Campaign," comments Mr. Bill van Staalduijn, Vice President (Advancement). "Redeemer's rapid growth has been supported by many friends from our traditional support community. What is also encouraging is the support we have received from the many new contacts we have made in the business community and throughout the broader evangelical community."

Phase II of the Campaign will be focused largely on reducing Redeemer's capital debt. To finance the Ancaster campus, Redeemer has carried a planned, long term capital debt. This debt is held entirely by Redeemer's support community through loans, bonds, RRSPs and RIFs. "That, too, is a blessing," says van Staalduijn, "but there are still interest charges and other costs which take up a large amount of Redeemer's operating budget. We are developing a coordinated strategic plan to reduce the debt, one that has many different aspects. We are also enlisting the help of other financial planners in the support community."

The Redeemer Foundation Board is once again supporting the Campaign by providing the resources needed to finance Phase II. The Building on the Promise Joint Steering Committee will give guidance to Redeemer's staff on the focus and direction of the Campaign. There will be a more detailed description of Phase II in the June issue of *Images*. I

## Coming Events:

### MAIN STAGE THEATRE

Guest Director Chris Outhill '96 presents *Eli*, by Nelly Sachs, a mystery that employs song and dance set against the backdrop of the Holocaust.

March 27-31 in the Redeemer Auditorium

### CHORAL CONCERT

Guest Conductor Lenard Whiting leads the Concert and Alumni Choirs in Mozart's Requiem.

Saturday, April 14, at 8 pm in the Redeemer Auditorium

### COMMENCEMENT

The Redeemer community is invited to witness the 16th graduation ceremony. Radio and TV personality Michael Coren is the guest speaker.

Saturday, May 26 at 2 pm in the Redeemer Auditorium

### BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Governors meets on May 25-26

The Senate meets March 22 and May 10

The public is welcome to attend the public portions of these meetings

## Redeemer University College Board of Governors.



## Board Members 2000-01

Members of the Board are elected for a three-year term by Redeemer's membership at the Annual Meeting. Some Board members

represent different denominational and educational constituencies while others come from geographic regions across eastern Canada.

### Board members for the 2000-01 are:

Mr. Gerry Brown, Mr. Wybe Bylsma, Mr. Albert DeJong, Mrs. Erica De Wit, Mr. Charlie Full, Dr. Gerrit Gerrits, Mr. Lloyd Hack, Mr. Gerry Hofstra, Mr. Allan James, Mr. Luke Janssen, Mrs. Lena Kiers, Mr. Larry Lutpendorff, Rev. Thomas Meyer, Rev. Howard McPhee, Mr. Martin Mudde, Mr. Ralph Norg, Mrs. Diane Plug, Ms. Hilda Roukema, Mr. Aaron Schat, Mrs. Sylvia Smeenk, Mr. Andrew Straatsma, Mrs. Audrey Vahrmeyer, Mr. Harry VanderKooij, Mrs. Theresa VanderSluis, Dr. John Vandorp, Mr. Jack Van Meggelen, Mr. Frank Vreugdenhil, Mrs. Beth Ann Wiersma, Mr. Pieter Wonder.

# Heeding the Call

With a deep-rooted assurance, mature students face the challenges of returning to school.

As Samuel lay in bed, God called him. Not once. Not twice. Not even three times. God had to call Samuel four times before he realized that it was God's voice that was calling him. God had big plans for Samuel. God was going to use Samuel in a way greater than Samuel could ever imagine; yet Samuel almost missed the call. God calls out to each one of us, but many times we follow the path that we

think suits us best. The path that is the easiest, the most financially secure, the safest.

This issue of *Images* looks at the story of four students who heard God's call and made the decision to follow His voice. But these are not what most would call "typical" students — they are just a few of a growing number of students who have decided later in life to go to, or to return to, university studies. Sometimes called "mature" or

"older-than-average," these students have listened to

God calling them to take a really big step in faith. What they have heard is God telling them to quit their jobs and go back to school, in spite of the family they have at home, the mortgages and bills that will continue to need to be paid, and the mouths that need to be fed. Theirs are stories of dedication, perseverance and sacrifice. But more than that, these are joyful accounts of being faithful to the call of the Lord.

BY JACK KLOOSTER '97



Susan Cicer graduating in 1982 and again in 2001



From left to right:  
Steve Cruickshank on the  
ice in 1980 and graduating  
from Clarkson University  
in 1982. Below:  
Cruickshank with his wife,  
Vicki, son, Jamie and  
daughter, Shawna in his  
study.



**S**teve Cruickshank is currently enrolled in the Teacher's Program at Redeemer University College. Cruickshank has also a long, winding route to Redeemer. In the late 70's, he went to Clarkson University in New York on a full hockey scholarship. "I was more focused on playing hockey than I was focused on school," Cruickshank pointed out, "I was fully intending to play professional hockey."

Cruickshank graduated from Clarkson in 1982 with a Degree in Management Marketing, and followed his dream of becoming a professional hockey player. He received a tryout with the Winnipeg Jets organization, and after their training camp, was sent down to the Fort Wayne Komets of the International League. After a month of playing in the "I", Cruickshank decided to take a serious look at his future. "I decided that this wasn't for me. The pay was terrible, and the chances for a guy like me to get hurt were high." Cruickshank had one more serious shot at hockey, a tryout with the Canadian Olympic team in 1983, before he decided it was time to focus on a different goal.

In 1985, Cruickshank began a career in the pharmaceutical industry, which would serve him well for the next 15 years. Ten years ago, Cruickshank made perhaps the greatest decision of his life. He decided to ask God to come into his heart. One night, Cruickshank decided to give the whole of his life to God. "I was looking for answers. I had always given every part of my life to God, except for my career and my money. That night I prayed that God would take hold of my whole life." The next morning Cruickshank received a request that his boss wanted to speak with him. That Friday, Cruickshank was let go from his job.

After receiving a buyout, Cruickshank decided to pursue teaching, something that he had been thinking about for some time. He checked out some schools, and then phoned a friend in his church who recommended Redeemer. He decided to check it out and was impressed enough to enroll as a part-time student for the Winter Semester of 2000. From there he applied to Redeemer's Teacher's Education program, and is currently working on obtaining his Bachelor of Christian Education degree. "I believe I was led to Redeemer, and to teaching," said Cruickshank. "I prayed a lot to find God's will and direction for my life. While it always seemed that God's plan A was my plan B, I always knew that I was on the right path with Redeemer."

Cruickshank currently serves as the playing coach of the Redeemer Royals hockey team, an experience he has found extremely fulfilling. But even though he is involved with the hockey program, this time around Cruickshank is focusing on being a student first, and a hockey player second. Never a great student at Clarkson, Cruickshank made the Dean's List in his first semester at Redeemer, and has two teaching placements for his second semester. "Only good things have happened to me since I have come to Redeemer," comments Cruickshank, "I feel that I am exactly where God wants me to be, and it feels good."

A number of seemingly unrelated events brought Susan Creer to Redeemer. Creer had been fighting a wrongful dismissal case with her last employer (which she eventually won) and was not too interested in the prospect of yet another mediocre job. "That is when I saw an advertisement in the Hamilton Spectator about Redeemer," remembers Creer. "Shortly after that, I attended a seminar at my church and the speaker asked if we knew what Einstein's definition of insanity was: doing the same thing over



## Counting the Cost

Financing a university education can be daunting at the best of times. Having to account for dependents, a spouse, mortgage payments, and other commitments makes the challenges facing mature students even more daunting. "By the time tuition, books, and fees are added up, notes Sid Ypma, Assistant Financial Aid Director, "students are looking at around \$10,000 per year for full-time studies." On top of that, mature students also need to figure on commuting or housing costs (if they are moving closer to Ancaster to study)—all without the benefit of a full-time income.

Although it is impossible to deny that going back to school will require huge sacrifices, and probably a large debt, there are a number of resources available for mature students considering a return to the classroom.

Government assistance programs: the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) provides up to \$17,000 in loans and grants for mature students with dependents.

Redeemer University College awards: mature students are eligible for academic scholarships and needs-based awards like the \$3000 The Steven J. Kouwenhoven Mature Student Bursary.

Redeemer Foundation programs: unique programs such as the Forgivable Loan and the First Year Fund can help eligible students cover their tuition and other expenses.

"We're trying to increase the amount of needs-based assistance we can offer students," says Ypma, "and that will certainly benefit mature students." It's unlikely, however, that any combination of assistance program will completely alleviate the cost. "We can do a lot for mature students, but in the end, they are going to decide if it is worth the cost."

and over and over and over again, with the same method and technique, but expecting different results." She decided that maybe she needed to try another path. Creer started talking with the Admissions Office at Redeemer, and soon enrolled, taking a double major in Psychology and Theatre Arts. She graduates this spring and is amazed that there are so many opportunities opening up for her.

"I look back on my time here, and it has been an amazing experience. I have become very involved with the theatre, even directing a huge show, *The Grand Old Duke of York*. As I look to my graduation I realize how the staff and faculty here, as well as so many friends have been so good, helping me grow spiritually, stretching my wings to take on challenges that never would have seemed possible a few years ago."

"I came to Redeemer a very insecure Christian," Creer said. "I had only accepted Christ's lordship over my total life just prior to coming here. I had been going to church for quite awhile, trying to live my life as a good Christian, but some of the issues in my former marriage had left me with no confidence. While I was at the Billy Graham Crusade in May 1995, I finally realized that Jesus Christ had actually died for me. It was an astounding revelation and the beginning of complete healing for me." Not everyone has openly accepted her divorce, yet it has served as a great issue for discussion with many of

the students at Redeemer.

Creer has some advice for those thinking of returning to school: "Put your support networks in place beforehand." Creer managed to surround herself with the right people. "My parents have really supported me. Even though I haven't lived at home in 15 years, they really have bought into my dream. It takes patience, and an incredible trust in God."

Melany Eastman had been through quite a lot even before deciding to become a mature student. The year before Eastman was to be married, a drunk driver hit her husband Allen. He was disabled, leaving Melany as the sole provider of a family, which would grow to 6 children, while her husband became the primary caregiver to the kids at home. To support the family, Eastman worked for 15 years as a banker in a local Canada Trust branch.

Eastman was also a volunteer at Dundas Christian School, where her children attended. One day, the school principal approached her and asked if she was interested in becoming a teacher. Eastman thought about it and discussed it with her husband. While her husband encouraged her, Eastman held some reservations. Not only had she never gone to university, she was a high school dropout. "I thought that if I called Redeemer, they would just laugh at me," remembers Eastman. She was accepted however, and even received a \$3000 bursary. "Throughout the whole period, God kept giving me signs, signs which enabled us to keep moving on," recalled Eastman.

During her first year at Redeemer, the former high school dropout managed to work her way onto the Dean's List, and qualified for another award, this time the Prins Family Bursary. "I know that the Lord guided me to Redeemer, and is still with my family right now. The awards help ease our financial burdens." These financial burdens have continued to grow, but somehow, just when things seem hopeless, God takes control. "We have 8 mouths to feed, a mortgage to pay, Christian schooling, I am not going to say that it hasn't been financially trying," said Eastman. "When

Melany Eastman surrounded with her family. Backrow: Allen holds Graham, 6 months while Ty, 12, Tamar, 10, Brydon, 9, Gavin, 7 and Alisa, 2 look on.





I took my bus information in last year, they looked at it and said it seemed impossible, but somehow the family has managed to get by."

Even with the financial strains, Eastman's experience at Redeemer has been incredible. Her interactions with both students and faculty have helped guide her through her first couple of years. "The students here are absolutely amazing," laughs Eastman, "they are so emotionally charged and on fire! They have really befriended me, sending me little notes, and really encouraging me." Eastman is proud of the atmosphere around Redeemer, and has even arranged for her son to take guitar lessons from one of the students here. "If anyone feels that God is leading them back to school, then they should just do it," says Eastman. "If I can do it, anyone can. The students here are so wonderful and accepting. I hope my kids grow up like these kids."

Prior to coming to Redeemer, Eastman was a full-time missionary in Ecuador for 10 years with her husband Ron and their children. When they returned to Canada, Hughes experienced somewhat of a reverse culture shock. "When we got back, everything was so different. I didn't feel as though I fit in," commented Hughes. "There were a number of different mental health issues to deal with, new social roles, and I found that home here was not the same anymore." Dealing with these issues became extremely difficult for Hughes, and she seemed to be trapped. "It was as if I had nowhere to go. I was stuck in a big sterile room with locked doors everywhere."

Since school had always been extremely positive for her, Hughes started to look into enrolling at a post-secondary institution. She was very confident of her academic abilities, so Hughes felt that school was the perfect opportunity for her to ease her way back into society at a level with which she felt confident. She contacted Redeemer

primarily because it offered her the Christian reinforcement that she desired. "Although Redeemer offered a Christian tradition that I was not entirely familiar with, it opened a broader scope and allowed for me to step outside my own traditional background."

As a mature student, Hughes has had a different perspective of school than she did when she graduated from Ryerson "many, many, many years ago." Hughes feels that many of the mature students have a great deal to offer while taking classes at Redeemer. "Through their life experiences,

**"If anyone feels that God is leading them back to school, then they should just do it," says Eastman. "If I can do it, anyone can. The students here are so wonderful and accepting. I hope my kids grow up like these kids."**

mature students can contribute personal examples to class, and also raise questions regarding data that doesn't fit with the younger students' experiences or paradigm," offers Hughes. "However one of the awkward things in being a mature student is that your peers age-wise were among the faculty and the staff, but your peers role-wise were among the students."

While Hughes graduated just this past December with an Honours Degree in Psychology, it did not come without a

bump or two along the way. "The greatest challenge that I faced throughout my time at Redeemer was the tension between home responsibilities and school demands," said Hughes. "I don't think that I ever hit a good balance in this. I needed to find out how to invest my time and energy wisely, and my family often felt somewhat abandoned. When I finally graduated, my kids just kept on talking about 'getting their mommy back'."

God's call doesn't always come in the form of a burning bush or through a multitude of angels. If only it were that easy. But God does have a plan for each of us, and we have a responsibility, ultimately to Him, to respond to that call. For Steve, Susan, Melany and Debbie, answering God's call has been a challenging, but rewarding walk in faith.

Jack Klooster is a youth pastor at Community Christian Reformed Church in Richmond Hill and a member of Redeemer's Alumni Board of Directors.



Debbie Hughes in her graduation photo.

At Redeemer, a mature student is defined as someone who is at least 21 years of age and has not attended school on a full-time basis for at least two years. For the academic year 2000-01, there are just over 200 mature students at Redeemer, representing about 8% of the total student body. For most mature students, their university experience will be quite a departure from the experience of students who immediately exit of high school. "Because they have greater responsibilities outside of class, and because they do not often live on campus, mature students are often unable to participate in the day-to-day life on campus," notes Marian Pyles-Szelekowszky, Senior Director of Admissions and Student Services.

Recognizing this, Redeemer University College organizes a number of activities specifically for mature students. Nancy Harthol, Student Life Coordinator, organizes a barbeque for all mature students and their families at the beginning of the year, monthly socials for the group, and acts as an advocate for them. As well, Student Senate hosts a Christmas Brunch. Still, for all that Redeemer can do for them, Harthol notes that "mature students are the best support for one another. They share the same experiences and help each other quite a bit."

Although they face many challenges in returning to school later in life, mature students are often well-prepared for the task. "Mature students are very focused on what they want," says Pyles-Szelekowszky, "and as a result, they are more dedicated than many of their younger classmates." John Krueger, Academic Support Coordinator, agrees. "Mature students have more at stake, and so they tend to take ownership of their education. They know when they need help, and are more willing to accept it."

This attitude is noticed by faculty and impacts other students in the class. Dr. Gene Hays, Associate Professor of Religion and Theology, enjoys having mature students in his class. "They are generally more willing to raise questions in class and engage in discussion. They take a very active role in their education, often drawing upon their life experiences in projects and papers. Instead of choosing a topic out of convenience, they will seek out issues or ideas that are of genuine interest to them."

## Profile

# Looking beyond the surface

Rob Gagnon's 'disability' is a matter of perception

BY NANCY HARTHOLT '92

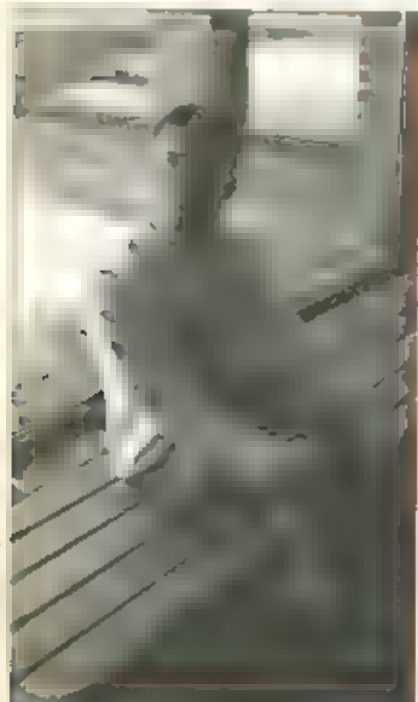


Photo: Peter Zelinger

University education is a challenge at the best of times. It would seem that those students with physical disabilities face extra challenges in getting a degree. But it is also easy to underestimate what a person is able to do when placed in the right circumstances.

Robert Gagnon, from Stouffville, Ontario, is in his fourth year at Redeemer University College, taking a double major in History and Religion. Gagnon has mild Cerebral Palsy (CP) which affects mainly his speech, but also his arm movement. CP is a term used to describe a group of disorders affecting body movement and muscle coordination. To the casual observer, it would seem that Robert is handicapped, and understanding his speech does take some work. But Gagnon does not see himself as

having a disability and he has never felt that his CP would hinder him. His experience bears witness to his conviction—the Lord willing, he will graduate in May, 2002.

Gagnon believes that since he made it through high school he could make it through university as well. When asked why he chose Redeemer, his heartfelt answer is "I felt that God was calling me to Redeemer. My parents and I prayed about where I was to go and Redeemer came to our mind. We felt that God was leading me here."

Some accommodations are made for Gagnon's physical condition. The biggest concern is to ensure that his questions in class are understood, by both professors and students. That requires patience (for both him and the listeners) and extra work for those needing to hear what he has to say. Gagnon also makes use of note takers and requires extra time for tests and exams.

The Student Life Department provides many services to students with disabilities, depending on the nature of the disability. There are a number of special needs students at Redeemer, some who are visually impaired, others with learning difficulties. Ms. Nancy Hartholt, Special Needs Coordinator, arranges services such as note takers, readers, tutors, books on tape, and diagnostic testing. She also helps students apply for government funding and arranges alternate testing locations. Student volunteers help a great deal too, creating a support network for students who might otherwise have difficulty with the demands

of university education.

More than just "getting by," Gagnon is flourishing at Redeemer. He usually takes four courses per semester which allows him extra time for the life on campus that he cherishes so much. He has lived on campus since his first year. He comments that, "I feel that the Redeemer community is very caring and loving toward me. I feel very

accepted despite the fact that at times people have a hard time understanding my speech.

Once people take the time and get to know me, they can understand me." He contributes to many activities, such as Church in the Box, the student paper *The Crown*, Morning Prayer and as a prayer partner with another student. Second year student Walter Miedema, a friend and dorm-mate of Gagnon's states that, "Rob is a great guy, with one of the funniest senses of humour I have encountered; it is always

fun to joke around with him in the dorm. Robert's faith life is obviously very strong and he always does his best at keeping the dorm on its spiritual toes."

Gagnon enjoys his classes and the opportunities for learning at Redeemer both in and out of the classroom noting, "I especially appreciate learning a strong world view." Like many other students, his most difficult challenge at Redeemer has been Greek. "Languages are just not my thing," he confesses. Gagnon's future plans are to continue his education by completing a Master of Theology program, and then continuing to go where the Lord leads him. I

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## New Investment Affinity Program

**Affinity arrangements are just one of the new initiatives that Redeemer University College and the Redeemer Foundation are investigating to develop revenue**

**R**edeemer University College now has an affinity arrangement in place with a number of financial advisors at the Burlington and Dundas offices of the Investment Planning Counsel of Canada (IPC; formerly Fortress Equity). The deal, arranged with the help of the Redeemer Foundation, will see participating IPC advisors donate to the university a percentage of their earnings from new investments placed with them by Redeemer supporters.

"Many Redeemer supporters have funds invested in a variety of ways and places, and from time to time they have new funds available for investment," says Mr. Bill van Staalkoven, Vice-President (Advancement), who helped arrange the deal. "So it made sense to inform our supporters of the opportunity to increase their support for Redeemer by making new investments using the services of participating financial advisors."

This is a program in which everyone wins, says van Staalkoven. "It does not

cost the investor anything to support Redeemer in this way. The financial advisors are simply donating to Redeemer a portion of their commission earnings." The advisor benefits by attracting new investments, and Redeemer receives a financial benefit as a result of informing its supporters about the plan.

Affinity arrangements are just one of the new initiatives that Redeemer University College and the Redeemer Foundation together are investigating to help develop alternative sources of revenue. This pilot project was arranged with Bill Van Huisstede and Ken Vanderlaan of IPC's Burlington and Dundas offices. They are well known and respected financial planners in the Christian community from their work with Fortress Equity.

Redeemer supporters looking to take advantage of this program should contact Redeemer's Stewardship Department or call one of the participating advisors at IPC directly using the numbers below.

## The Educational Gift Certificate program

BY DEBRA PERKINS

As the cost of Christian higher education continues to escalate, many people are looking for ways to help their children or grandchildren—or other friends and relatives—with their expenses. The Redeemer Foundation's Education Gift Certificate Program is one way to help students, even while they are still young.

In very simple terms, an Education Gift Certificate buys a percentage of the recipient's future education at today's prices. The cost of a certificate is based on tuition (in the date purchased but is redeemed for the same percentage of tuition at that time. By purchasing a 1% certificate each year at age 18 that the recipient comes close to having 1/5 of their Redeemer tuition paid in their first year. The younger the recipient, the lower the cost of the certificate purchased, and the greater the future benefit.

The Educational Gift Certificates are flexible if the recipient decides not to attend Redeemer University College. The certificates may be cashed out, donated back to the Redeemer Foundation or transferred to another student of the purchaser's choice. Although the certificates mature when the student turns 18, the benefit can still be claimed for up to seven years from the maturity year.

If you are interested in investing in the future of someone you know and love, please contact us at the Redeemer Foundation. Please phone (877) 779-0913, or send an email to [dperkins@redeemer.on.ca](mailto:dperkins@redeemer.on.ca) to discuss all the options.

## Have you considered a financial partnership?



**REDEEMER**  
University College

A Charitable Gift Annuity provides a guaranteed income for life for you plus a charitable donation to Redeemer. For more information, please contact Redeemer at 1-877-779-0913 or CSS at 1-800-267-8290.

### Redeemer Investment Affinity Program

Use any of these services and benefit Redeemer University College  
Retirement Planning or Group Retirement Plans or Estate Planning  
Tax Planning or Corporate Investing or Private Wealth Management  
(Minimum investment \$1,000)

Burlington (905) 333-0002, Bill Van Huisstede, Colin Spithoff, Tracy Closs  
Dundas (905) 628-9666, Roland Van Andel, Ken Vanderlaan

# Alison Gresik



**O**n Monday January 22, writers and author Alison Gresik read from her first book *Brick and Mortar* in Redeemer's Intimate Studio Theatre. The audience of former students, faculty and the general public listened intently to selected passages from her book of short stories. *Brick and Mortar* is a story cycle that moves among the lives of churchgoers at the fictional Calvin Park Presbyterian.

These parishioners try to understand their place in the bureaucracy of the church, a gathering of young and old, professionals and working class, the faithful and the doubtful. Set in Kingston, Ontario, the stories of *Brick and Mortar* centre on small revelatory events in the lives of church members, epiphanies that embody the moment when the natural and spiritual worlds connect.

Gresik, now living in Ottawa, grew up in Kingston, Ontario. Currently employed as a Technical Writer for JetForm Corporation, a software company in Ottawa, ON, she received her BA in English from Redeemer in 1995, and holds a Master of Arts in English (1998) from the University of Calgary, with a concentration in Creative Writing.

*Brick and Mortar* began as a thesis for her Master's degree. It is published by Oberon Press and is available at the Redeemer Bookstore. It can also be ordered online from Indigo Books. I

## Appeal targets new costume for mascot

As the Raccoon Redeemer's longtime mascot is about to be replaced through funds raised by the Alumni Annual Appeal.

Roadkill Rex, as he has become known of late, is in serious shape. He is tattered and torn, threadbare in patches and his eyes have been ripped off so often that they are now permanently glued in place. Designed without much thought to ventilation the costume induces heat exhaustion in anyone who happens to be wearing it for any length of time, if the person doesn't first succumb to the odour of many years of use.

Athletic Director Allan Brown along with the Athletic Committee, have proposed two choices to replace old Rex: an updated raccoon, or switching to a lion. The final decision will be made in consultation with student senate, the College Identity Committee, Student Life and the

President. Any alumnus wishing to have input is invited to contact the Athletic Department by the end of March.

Now in its fifth year, the Alumni Annual Appeal is a fund raising initiative designed by alumni and directed at alumni. In previous years, alumni have donated funds that were used to purchase computers for library research, to make improvements to the centre tower of the College, to purchase choir risers for the Music Department and to provide cafe-style tables and chairs for informal meeting areas throughout the academic building.

The Alumni Board is grateful for the Enamoun support that alumni have demonstrated towards this appeal in the past, and is confident that alumni will help create a mascot that will represent Redeemer with pride. Alumni can expect to receive a brochure detailing this project in the next few weeks.

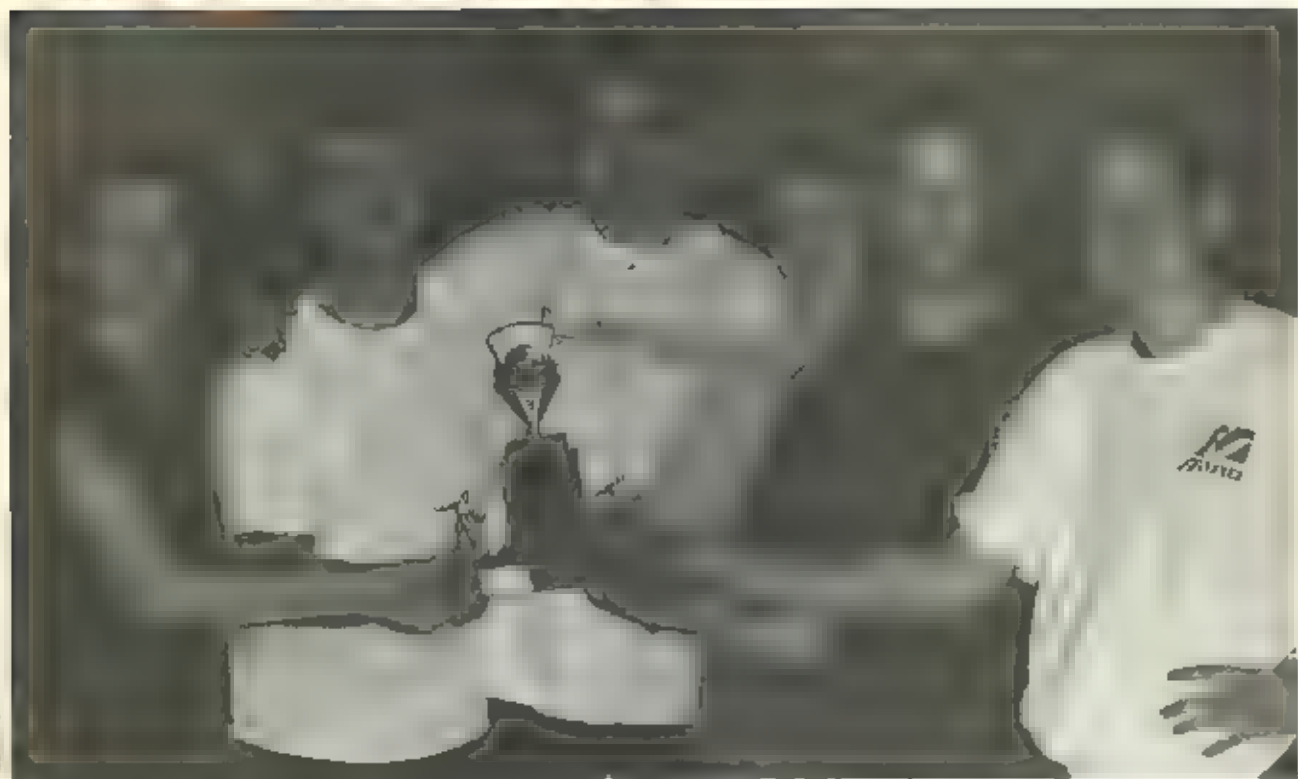
REDEEMER

Annual Appeal





## The Championship Trophy



For the second year in a row, the Redeemer Alumni Volleyball Tournament. The champions from left: Karen Vandekamp, A. Schenk, JJ. Rasmussen, and Mike Hackett.

Even teams took part in this year's tourney, which also featured a match between the current varsity team and a hastily-organized alumni varsity team. The current varsity team won the 3-game match by the slimmest of margins, proving little other than the tradition of great volleyball at Redeemer continues.

The volleyball tournament is an annual event for Redeemer alumni. Next year's tournament will be in January, 2002. Watch *Images* for more details. And if you have an idea for an alumni-related event, be it athletic, cultural, or otherwise, contact the Alumni Office. We are always looking for ways to serve Redeemer alumni.

## Graduate School Seminar

iving, earning, and passing it on. On January 10, 2001 four Redeemer Alumni did just that as part of the first Graduate School Seminar, an initiative of the Student Life Department and the Alumni Office. Richard Wickenak '87, Jane Koopman '90, Aaron Schat '96, and Steve Ryan '00, who are currently in graduate school, shared their experiences with more than 40 Redeemer students.

As part of a panel discussion, these alumni helped students with some of their

questions regarding graduate level studies. The alumni discussed how Redeemer prepared them for pursuing a graduate degree, the surprises they found once they began their studies, what they wished they had known before they began, and the transition from a Christian-based education to a secular one. The discussion period carried over through dinner at communal meal.

In addition to the panel, John Krueger, Redeemer's Career and Placement Coordinator, presented the pros and cons

of choosing a graduate school, and the application process. Krueger serves students throughout the year with these issues and much more.

The event was very well received by the students who participated, and by the alumni panel. The Student Life Department and the Alumni Office anticipate this being an annual event. By taking advantage of the experiences of those alumni who have gone before them, Redeemer students will be more prepared for the challenges of graduate education. I

## Profile

# Running the Race *or* Lifting the Weights Set Before Us

It is no wonder that the apostle Paul uses athletic imagery to describe Christian living. Dedication, sacrifice, training, and self-discipline—all characteristics of the Christian walk are hallmarks of the serious athlete as well. Frances Manias-Jackson '96, a world-ranked athlete in her sport, models these characteristics in her life and training by "pressing on toward the goal," both physically and spiritually.

Manias-Jackson has always been a competitive athlete. She was competing on her older brother's soccer team when she was only 5 years old. By the age of 12, she had fallen in love with basketball, and set her heart on playing for Canada in the Olympics. To supplement her basketball training, she began working with weights while she was a student at Redeemer. The owners of the small fitness club where

she was working out approached her and asked if she had ever considered competing. "Competing in what?" she asked. Bodybuilding, they replied. "I had no idea what he was talking about. I had never seen a competition, yet, after giving it some thought, the whole thing intrigued me," recalls Manias-Jackson.

Competitive bodybuilding, she discovered, is not just a matter of lifting as much weight as possible. Manias-Jackson's competition preparation includes a strictly regimented, low carbohydrate, high protein diet, 2 hours of cardiovascular training per day, and intensive weight training 5-6 times per week.

What drives someone to train that hard,

to sacrifice that much? "I am motivated in part by the experience—I love to train and compete. I also understand that this opportunity has been given to me, as has my body, by God," confesses Manias-Jackson. "I choose to train, compete, diet and strive for the best—drug free, for God's glory and purpose. Therefore, I know that despite the final outcome, I have accomplished something. The purpose often goes far beyond my comprehension at the time." That understanding of her purpose helped Manias-Jackson when she placed last in her class at the '99 Nationals after winning that division the year before. "Even defeat did little to dampen my spirit and desire to continue developing and persevering in

the sport."

The training and sacrifices have paid off for Manias-Jackson, though. After only 5 years of competitive bodybuilding, she became the Canadian Champion (Middleweight Women) at the 2000 Drug Tested Nationals. At that event she was also named 1st Overall, and won the Best Poser Award. And in October, she fulfilled the life-long dream of representing her country at the 2000 International Federation of BodyBuilding World Amateur Championships in Warsaw, Poland, where she placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the Middleweight Women category.

She considers her recent victories a testimony to what God can do. "Yes, I trained hard, dieted for what seemed like forever and gave up more than I felt I was gaining at the time, but the reward for me was not, and is not, being #1 or

even attaining a physical peak. These are all short lived victories anyway. The training and competing for me is all part of the process of becoming more and more the woman God has made me and called me to be. So, I train—physically and spiritually I press on."

Supported by her husband Sean, Manias-Jackson hopes to remain in competitive bodybuilding for a few years yet, especially as the International Olympic Committee considers adding it as a medal sport, possibly in 2004 or 2008. In the meantime, she continues her work as Athletic Coordinator at Redeemer University College, training for the next competition, and for that future, eternal glory. J

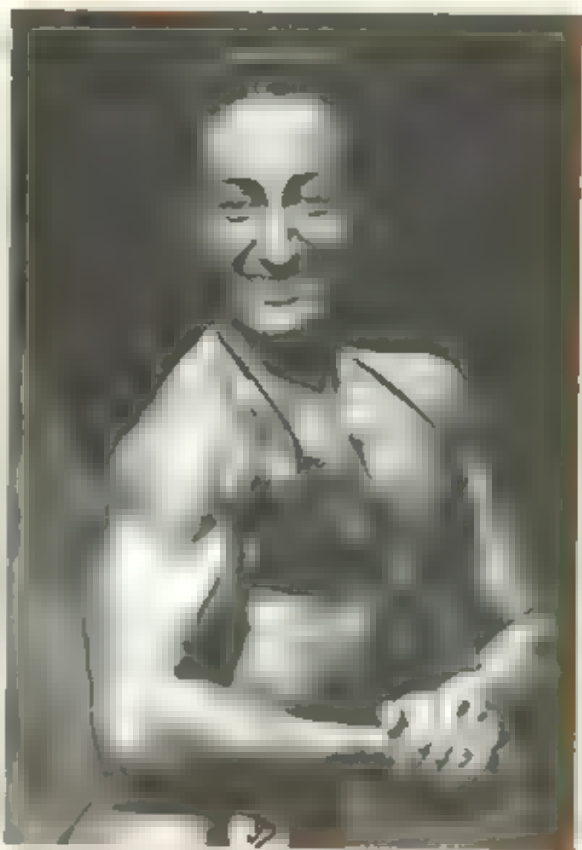


Photo by: [illegible]

Canadian Champion Frances Manias-Jackson, 2000 Drug Tested Nationals



## Profs. Benner & Spackman move to other challenges

Two faculty members left their positions at Redeemer at the end of the fall semester.

Dr. David Benner, Professor of Psychology, left Redeemer to begin an appointment as Distinguished Professor at Psychological Studies Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. Psychological Studies Institute is a Christian graduate school of psychology with particular interest in psycho-spiritual formation. Dr. Benner's work in the relationship between the psychological and spiritual aspects of functioning was the basis for this prestigious appointment which will allow him to return to graduate education, focusing on matters that he judges to lie at the heart of his calling.

A clinical psychologist, Dr. Benner came to Redeemer in 1988, the same time that Dr. Wayne Norman, an experimental psychologist, started teaching. Drs. Benner and Norman did much work to develop the Psychology Department as it grew to be one of the largest on campus. Dr. Benner was instrumental in setting up the internship program for psychology students, and was also the supervisor for many of the Honours Psychology students as they wrote their theses.

Beyond his teaching, Dr. Benner is a prolific author, writing many books and articles for both professional and public audiences. Widely respected for his work with children experiencing trauma, Dr. Benner has served on a UN commission examining the impact of trauma in war-torn regions of the Balkans. Dr. Benner also serves as Chief Psychologist at Child and Adolescent Services in Hamilton.

Ms Betty Spackman, Assistant Professor of Art has resigned to pursue her own creative work. Ms Spackman has been at Redeemer for 10 years, first as a part-time instructor, and the last three as Assistant Professor and Head of the Department. Ms.



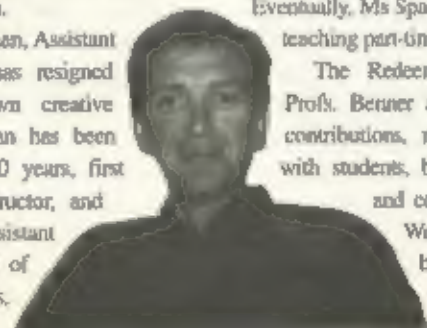
Betty Spackman, former Professor and Head of the Art Department

Spackman was the only full-time professor in art over the last three years, a very demanding assignment. During her tenure, she oversaw changes in the curriculum that ensured a strong basis of Art education for students who want to pursue further education or seek art-related jobs. The department also has an increasing roster of Art Majors and Minors.

The future is not quite as defined for Ms Spackman. She is working on a book about Christian Kitch, which is scheduled to be published in 2002. Her immediate plans include traveling, research and continuing to do her own creative work. She comments that, "I guess for me to be 'at home' means to be obedient to God. And I believe my choice to leave is just that. Although it is difficult to again break up my nest and be 'on the road', I take once again, a step in faith." Eventually, Ms Spackman hopes to return to teaching part-time.

The Redeemer community thanks Profs. Benner and Spackman for their contributions, not just for their work with students, but for their scholarship and community work as well.

We wish them the Lord's blessings in their new endeavours. **I**



Dr. David Benner, former Professor of Psychology

## Celebration of Christian Scholarship:

### Faculty Development Program

By ELISABETH DI FRANCESCO

The Research and Faculty Development Committee was busy this Fall formulating an exciting new project for our faculty. Led by Dr. M. Elaine Botha, Redeemer's Director of Research and Faculty Development, the committee launched the "Celebration of Christian Scholarship: Faculty Development Program." This program, a series of three workshops spread throughout the academic year, is designed to create a process of reflection and interaction for the faculty. The goal is to encourage them to relate the heart of the Reformational vision to their own research, teaching, and the curriculum as a whole.

Phase 1 of the program, held in November 2000, was entitled "The Open Book and Scholarship" and featured Dr. Al Wolters, Professor of Religion and Theology, and Classical Studies at Redeemer, and Dr. Craig Bartholomew, Postdoctoral Senior Research Fellow at Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education in the UK. Dr. Wolters spoke on "Biblical Basics for a Christian Worldview" and Dr. Bartholomew gave an address entitled "A Christian Perspective on Biblical Hermeneutics?" Associate Professor of English Dr. Deborah Bowen commented that "Al Wolters helpfully took us back to basics with his presentation about the relationship between nature and grace. But we then entered an interesting new discussion, when Craig Bartholomew sug-

Continued on page 18

## Honoured for Years of Service

Continued from page 17



Honored for ten years of service are those left to right: Jean Fluit (Food Services), Dr. Cary Chang (Biology), Jennifer Chiang (Biology), Diane Deffen (Food Services), Gazer Louser (Food Services), John Synala (Education), John Krueger (Water and Placement Co-ordinator), Dr. Gene Hahn (Religion and Theology). They were honored for ten years of employment at Redeemer during the annual employee recognition evening: Redeemer Presents, on February 16, 2003. Not present: Christina Krueger (Library), Mary Van (Maintenance).

Honoured for fifteen years of service were Dr Henry Browner (Chemistry), Dr Dong Loopy (English), Dr James Payton (History), Dr Bert Podman (Jewish), Jan VanGest (Human Resources Director), Dr John Vriend (Education).

gested that each of the paradigms Wolters presented was emphasizing a different dimension of this relationship, so that we can learn from all of them." The evening concluded with a presentation by five faculty members of their present research projects.

Phase II of the program, scheduled for February 28, 2001, is entitled "Our Reformational Vision" and focuses on the teaching aspect of the task of our professors. Phase III, provisionally scheduled for May, carries the theme of "Philosophy of the Core Curriculum."

Professional development is vital and this exciting program is helping faculty re-examine their research and teaching in the light of the reformational Vision and Mission of Redeemer University College.

# PersonalTouch

Alison Gresik '95 and Shawn de Raaf '96 live in Ottawa. Shawn is pleased to have completed his M.A. in Public Administration in December 2000. He now works as a Research Associate for the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation. Alison works at JetForm Corporation as a Technical Writer, and plans to devote more time to writing fiction now that she has published her first book, *Brick and Mortar*. In September 2000 they became Senior Residents, a live-in part-time position in Glengarry House at Carleton University. Their current address is: Box 1762, #233 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, K1S 5B7. [derraaf@srcd.org](mailto:derraaf@srcd.org).

**Jill Riggie** (Brooks) '93 and **Kyle Riggie** reside in Louisville, Kentucky. **Jill** stays at home with their daughters Taylor (5), Jenna (3) and Alexandra (1). She would love to hear from friends and roommates. Address: 9506 Idlewood Court, Louisville, KY 40291. ohilly@yahoo.com.

Carine Schuurman (Dussonen) '91 and Derek Schuurman have moved to Hamilton in order for Derek to pursue Ph.D. studies in Computer Engineering at McMaster. Carine teaches grade 8 part time at Dundas Calvin Christian School. Address: 15 Marlowe Dr., Hamilton, ON, L9C 2H5. (905) 318-1165.

Stephen Witteveen '95 and Corine Vraugdenhil-Witteveen '96 are pleased to announce Stephen's successful completion of the Bar exams in December 2000 after having received his M.B.A. and Law Degree in a joint program at York University and Osgoode Hall Law School. Stephen is currently practicing in corporate/commercial law at Pavey Law in Cambridge. Corine currently holds the position of Corporate Event Planner at Toronto Tours, an event planning and conference management company in downtown Toronto. Address: 17 Morris St., Guelph, ON, N1E 5M1, (519) 827-1114, [scw@symvation.ca](mailto:scw@symvation.ca)

Susanne Wood (Vanderkooij) '88 and Daniel Wood are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Sember Rosina, on November 18, 2000. Susanne is on maternity leave from her teaching position at Dundas Calvin Christian School. Daniel is working on his tool and die apprenticeship in Guelph. Address: 22 Echo Dr., Guelph, ON, N1G 1H2, (519) 763-1951.

### Notes of Interest

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grad year \_\_\_\_\_

Name (surname, initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Grad year: \_\_\_\_\_

பெரியவை

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# The Give and Take

## of being a Mature Student

BY JACOB KERKHOF, '86



1986 yearbook photo of Jacob Kerkhof

**Being told early on that "at your age, studying Greek, Latin, and Hebrew would be the right combination for failure," was a sobering reality check, an indication of the academic challenges that I would face.**

Imagine a family with teenage kids and dad announces that he is going back to school—full-time. And not just any school, but Redeemer College, a place that didn't even exist 3 years before. And, if dad survives that experience, it will be off to Grand Rapids for four more years of study at Calvin Theological Seminary. That is the somewhat incredulous journey that our family faced in the early 1980's. With some apprehension (and probably genuine fear), we made the decision to listen to God's call and embark on the process that would lead to pastoral ministry.

There were times when we questioned our decision. After all, ours was still a young, growing family that needed a father and a husband. Others questioned my ability to handle the subject matter. Being told early on that "at your age, studying Greek, Latin, and Hebrew would be the right combination for failure," was a sobering reality check, an indication of the academic challenges that I would face.

But going back to school was, in the end, not my decision. At the age of 17, I told my pastor that I dreamed of going into the ministry. Little then did I realize that God would hold me to that dream as a 'mature' student. The Redeemer years were not easy, especially since I fast-tracked, completing the degree program in two and one-half years, and then doing three years at Seminary.

But I was helped along the way. Looking back, I'm sure that there were professors who looked out for my academic welfare, offering bits of help when it came to study habits, paper writing, and those other tricks and techniques that my younger

classmates had learned at high school. And being older allowed me access to professors in different ways than other students. After all, I was older than some of my instructors. At the same time, the faculty pushed and encouraged me as appropriate and when necessary. The occasional "C" reminded me that I needed to pull up my boot straps in order to enter the Seminary. For the professors who taught me, I am indebted and will always be grateful.

However, being an older student put me in a position to give back to the Redeemer community as well. God providentially used me to mentor younger students who were struggling with life issues. Often, one or two would visit me in the bookstore, (which I managed and which paid for most of my tuition), to speak with someone older, and to seek advice. That afforded me the opportunity to develop pastoral care skills that are so important in ministry.

My experience at Redeemer is one I will never forget, or regret, because God used that opportunity to prepare me for one of the most exciting callings in life. Being an older student was challenging for our family, but obviously not too traumatic—two of our children, David and Julie, graduated from Redeemer; our youngest daughter, Jaclyn, is studying to be a paramedic. And lest anyone think I did it all on my own, my dear wife Janet has been a constant help and support and continues to be my best critic. |

Pastor Jack recently graduated with a Th.M. in Domestic Missiology from Calvin Theological Seminary, and has moved to his second charge, First Christian Reformed Church in Barrie, where he serves as senior pastor.

Redeemer University College Music Department presents

# W.A. Mozart Requiem

Featuring the Redeemer Concert Choir &  
Alumni Choir

Conductor: Lenard Whiting

Also on the program:

Vivaldi: Gloria

Bach: Lobe den Herrn (Motet No. 9)

Saturday, April 14, 2001 at 8:00 pm

Redeemer University College

777 Garner Road East Ancaster, ON

Tickets: \$16, \$14 seniors/students

For ticket information call

905-648-2131 X 4211